

REMARKS

This is meant to be a complete response to the Office Action mailed December 22, 2003. In the Office Action, the Examiner stated that restriction to one of the following inventions was required under 35 U.S.C. 121:

- I. Claims 1-21, drawn to a method of producing soluble HLA molecules in a cell pharm using isolated mRNA as the starting material, classified in class 435, subclass 69.1.
- II. Claims 22-42, drawn to a method of producing soluble HLA molecules in a cell pharm comprising isolating genomic DNA for use as the starting material, classified in class 435, subclass 69.1.
- III. Claims 43 and 44, drawn to a multimeric HLA complex, classified in class 530, subclass 350.

Applicant respectfully elects Invention II, claims 22-42, without traverse. Claims 1-21, 43 and 44 have been canceled herein, without prejudice.

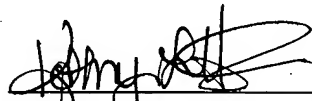
In the Office Action, the Examiner also stated that the application contains claims directed to the following patentably distinct species of the claimed invention:

- a) MHC class I molecules; and
- b) MHC class II molecules.

Applicant respectfully elects Species (a), MHC Class I molecules, without traverse. As the Examiner has stated in the Office Action, all claims are currently generic, and thus pending claims 22-42 are readable upon the elected species.

Should the Examiner have any questions regarding this Amendment, or the remarks contained herein, Applicants' agent would welcome the opportunity to discuss such matters with the Examiner.

Respectfully submitted,



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